



SPECIAL EDITION

This special edition of *Vistas* is primarily sent to announce the final programs in this winter's Lyceum Series. I would like to particularly draw your attention to the final two programs. Jim Lindberg, Director of Preservation Initiatives at the Mountains/Plains Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will present the May 7 program on **Preservation's Progress: Historic Structures in Rocky Mountain National Park, 1915 – 2005**. Dr. Patty Limerick, Professor of History and Environmental Studies at the University of Colorado, will present the May 14 program on **Caring for National Parks: Dreams, Hopes and the Public Lands**.

Trail Ridge Road is scheduled to open on May 27 for the Memorial Day weekend. Reconstruction of historic rock walls in the Upper Hidden Valley area along Trail Ridge Road began in early April and will continue through the summer and into the fall. Timing of this project is in preparation of road work that is proposed on Trail Ridge Road for 2006 and 2007. Road crews will work on the rock wall project before and after the road is open, and 10-15 minute travel delays will occur.

Please enjoy this special edition.

Vaughn Baker
Superintendent

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY LYCEUM SERIES CONCLUDES

The theme of the Spring 2005 Lyceum is **Facing the Future, Preserving the Past: Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of Rocky Mountain National Park**. Speakers present topics covering the changing uses, views, and management challenges 90 years have brought to the park. The theme of the following presentations is **"Today's Challenges."** All programs are on Saturday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium just west of Estes Park. Programs are free and open to the public.

Saturday, May 7, 7:00 p.m. Preservation's Progress: Historic Structures in Rocky Mountain National Park, 1915 – 2005.

How do buildings, roads and other man-made structures fit into the spectacular natural environment of Rocky Mountain National Park? Join Jim Lindberg of the National Trust for Historic Preservation as he tells the story of the park's rustic cabins and lodges. From the 1930s through the 1980s, many of these buildings were demolished

or burned in an effort to create a more “natural” scene. Today, however, many remaining historic buildings in the park are increasingly seen as treasures worth preserving. We will also cover an overview of architecture in Rocky Mountain National Park, notable historic preservation success stories and challenges for the future.

Saturday, May 14, 7:00 p.m. Caring for National Parks: Dreams, Hopes and the Public Lands

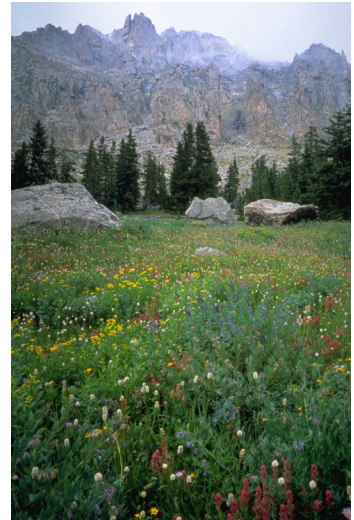
Please join us as Dr. Patricia Nelson Limerick closes this year's lyceum series. Dr. Limerick is a Western American historian, with particular interests in ethnic history and environmental history. As a Professor of History and Environmental Studies at the University of Colorado, she teaches a variety of courses on the American West, including a class on the biological components of Western American history. Pooling this background and her extensive knowledge of public land management, she'll present closing comments on National Parks today - a precious gift to future generations around the world.

AMERICANS PICK TOP U.S. TREASURES

Last week the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA) announced the results of a national survey that asked Americans to name the top American treasures they would like to visit. Results showed a true appreciation for the nation's natural and historic sites. The top ten selections, in order, were:

1. The Grand Canyon
2. The Statue of Liberty
3. Yellowstone National Park
4. The White House and monuments of Washington, D.C.
5. Niagara Falls
6. The Hawaiian Islands
7. Mount Rushmore
8. The Redwood Forest
9. The Glaciers and the Fjords of Alaska
10. The Rocky Mountains

"This year the travel industry is inviting travelers to recognize the many treasures we have in our great country," said Roger Dow, TIA's President and CEO. "It's interesting to note that the top ten are all magnificent outdoor experiences that either highlight our natural beauty or our history and culture."



Survey results support TIA's new See America's Treasures Campaign, which offers travelers a fun way to discover many treasures in their own backyards or in far-flung locations. Visitors to TIA's <http://www.SeeAmerica.org> website can play the See America's Treasures Game and link to all kinds of interesting places and things to do.

"We expect this summer to be a great one, with millions of Americans traveling across the U.S., along with many international visitors who will be taking full advantage of the favorable exchange rate," continued Dow.

The SeeAmerica.org website is operated by the non-profit Travel Industry Association of America and is designed to offer travelers a commercial-free comprehensive U.S. information site. The site offers maps for cities and states, driving directions, itineraries, deals and a powerful search engine that brings travelers to the destinations that meet their needs.

Survey results are based on a nationally representative sample of 2,681 U.S. adults aged 18 and over. The survey was conducted online March 29-31, 2005. Results have a margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points.

TIA is the national, non-profit organization representing all components of the \$593 billion travel industry. TIA's mission is to represent the whole of the U.S. travel industry to promote and facilitate increased travel to and within the United States.

- PRNewswire

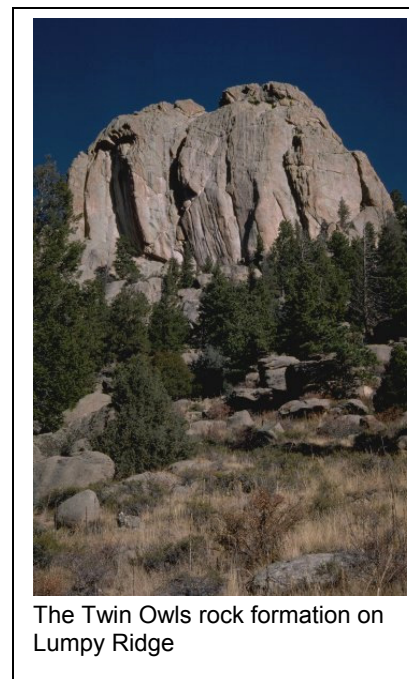
RAPTOR CLOSURES

Earlier this year, Rocky Mountain National Park temporarily closed certain areas of the park to allow wildlife managers to monitor birds of prey and ensure that these raptors will be undisturbed during the breeding and nesting seasons. Now that the raptors have chosen their nesting sites, Rocky Mountain National Park has extended the closures in nesting areas and has lifted closures in the areas where raptors are absent.

Closures include the named rock formations and the areas 100 yards in all directions from the base of the formations. Closures include all climbing routes, outcroppings, cliffs, faces, ascent and descent routes and climber access trails to the named rock formation. The Deer Mountain Trail remains open. Extensions and lifting of closures to note:

- Twin Owls, Rock One, The Parish, and Alligator Rock will remain closed until August 1, 2005.
- Deer Mountain Buttress closure will be extended to May 31, 2005.
- Closures have been lifted at Batman Rock, Batman Pinnacle, Lightning Rock, Checkerboard Rock, Thunder Buttress and Sheep Mountain.

Additional closures may be necessary during the spring and summer.



The Twin Owls rock formation on Lumpy Ridge

- by Chief Park Ranger Mark Magnuson

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK ARCHIVES ANIMAL TISSUES FOR RESEARCH ON CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE



Park staff administer antibiotics and fit a radio collar to a mule deer after performing a tonsillar biopsy. The collar will help staff find the deer in about two to four weeks if tests show the animal has CWD.

Unparalleled as laboratories for certain types of research, national parks also are invaluable as sources of research materials for scientists who may never set foot in a park. Rocky Mountain National Park has been working with National Park Service Veterinarian Margaret Wild to archive deer and elk tissues collected by park staff for chronic wasting disease (CWD) management purposes. Chronic wasting disease is a fatal brain wasting disease that affects ungulates (deer and elk) across most of the United States and parts of Canada. The tissues are used by researchers interested in studying CWD and in developing animal-side tests (tests that can be accomplished in the field—beside the animal) and vaccines for control of this disease. Most management actions undertaken by state game management agencies do not include testing animals slaughtered to control chronic wasting disease or archiving tissues, and although they may use tissue samples for their own research purposes; often the samples are not shared.

Interest in this scarce resource is growing. Rocky Mountain National Park issued one permit in 2003 and three permits in 2004 for researchers to obtain samples from NPS archived tissues for further study. Under contract to the National Park Service, Colorado State University (CSU) performs the necropsies on the ungulates sent by the park. Tissues are archived in cold storage at CSU under the supervision of Dr. Wild. They are delivered to

researchers after they obtain a research permit and sign a materials transfer agreement. Although researchers are not sampling tissues in the park, they are accomplishing research vital to the park's future management of its deer and elk populations. The potential benefits of this research extend well beyond the boundaries of Rocky Mountain National Park to any land managers struggling to deal with the devastating effects of chronic wasting disease. The park's contributions to this research may someday result in a way to control or cure this devastating disease.

- by Science Officer Terry Terrell

SATURDAY NIGHT IN THE PARK

The next Saturday evening program at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center (1½ miles north of the town of Grand Lake on Highway 34) will be May 14 at 7:00 p.m. "Living with Wildlife in Bear Country" will be presented by Kirk Oldham of the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW).

Colorado has been home to bears since their earliest ancestors evolved in North America. These large and powerful animals play an important role in the ecosystem. Today, increasing numbers of people routinely live and play in bear country, resulting in more bear/human encounters. For many people, seeing a bear is rare and the highlight of an outdoor experience. Learning about bears and being aware of their habits will help you fully appreciate these unique animals and the habitat in which they live. Please join us for this informative presentation!

Kirk Oldham is the District Wildlife Manager for the CDOW. He has worked with the CDOW since 2001 in Summit and Grand Counties. A Colorado native, he now resides in the Grand Lake area.



The black bear is the only species of bear still present in Rocky Mountain National Park. In our neck of the woods these bears may actually be black, dark brown or cinnamon colored.



Thousands of people go to the national parks because they want the things which are peculiar to the primeval wilderness, and what is more, peculiar to a particular wilderness - such as Glacier or Yellowstone or Grand Canyon or some other one. To make possible the great joy to be found in the infinite variety of the wilderness - not to thwart the desire to discover more and more of its ways - and the moral obligation to leave it unimpaired for new discoveries tomorrow, these are the functions of the national parks in our general scheme of wilderness use. Our national parks are a great philosophical venture in which we are attempting to pry open for ourselves the intricate and delicately balanced system of wilderness values essential to full and intelligent enjoyment of the wilderness. The success of the venture is going to hinge largely upon our understanding of the values at stake, our knowledge of recreational psychology, and our ability to meet the biological requirements of wilderness management."

- Ben Thompson, *Fauna of the National Parks of the United States*, 1935